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The paragraph on Force, p. 93, seems to us to lack force. That on p. 95 seems to lack directness. Occasionally a false impression is given. On p. 96 is a citation from Dr. Gregory's "Memoir of Robert Hall": "In one of my earliest interviews with him I used the word *felicity* three or four times. He asked me, 'Why do you say *felicity*? Happiness is a better word, and genuine English, coming from the Saxon, and more musical, as are generally the words derived from Saxon.'" This is all well and good. But the teacher who goes to substituting happiness for *felicity*, or any other Saxon word arbitrarily for a Latin derivative at random, on the strength of this authority, will make sorry work of it. The result will be neither happy nor *felicitous*. Hamlet's advice is too nobly serious to be used in this way, but we cannot refrain: "Absent thee from *felicity* awhile," but not forever.

But on this whole subject of essay writing we are reminded of Charles Lamb's experience, as related in the inimitable essay on "The Old and the New Schoolmaster." "One of these professors, upon my complaining that these little sketches of mine were anything but *methodical*, and that I was unable to make them otherwise, kindly offered to instruct me in the *method* by which young gentlemen in *his* seminary were taught to compose English themes."

*O. B. Rhodes*

*Adams, N. Y.*

*A History of the United States*, by ALLEN C. THOMAS, A. M., Professor of History in Haverford College, Pa. D. C. HEATH & Co., Boston, U. S. A.

The feature of this book is its emphasis of the historical events of this country since 1788—the era of the adoption of the Constitution. Two-thirds of its four hundred and ten pages are devoted to this period. We think Prof. Thomas has done well in thus adjusting the proportions of his subject. In the regulation school history of the United States quite half is occupied usually with the statement of our historical origins. "Europe," Emerson used to say, "Stretches to the Alleghanies," which was true enough in the Forties, but the movement since has been forward, the process of modification and development immense, and the colonial Englishman, Dutchman, and Swede have had a new birth in the American of the great Valley of the West. A new citizen and state have been made on this

Continent. United States history therefore has a forward look. We are a nation in the same sense that Germany and England are nations, and this national aspect of our history is its one noticeable aspect. An American boy or girl wants to know most of all the precise problem worked out on this soil ; viz., the safe and stable division of sovereignty between individual states and a general government,—what John Fiske somewhere says has been “the problem of civilization,” and just how it has been worked out here. They need to know and appreciate as everybody needs to know it, the progressive growth of this country in civilization ; that is, among other things, the humanization of man (as Matthew Arnold phrases it) under a Constitution described by Gladstone “as the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.”

Prof. Thomas' book, we think, from some careful examination of it, for a text book, gives largely the facts and tendencies of just these things.

It is accurate, clear, vivid and in arrangement excellent. Its presentation of economic and social questions—the Tariff, Indian, and Temperance problems—growth in religious tolerance, Libraries, Civil Service Reform, Literature, etc., especially the two great schools of Constitutional interpretation culminating in the civil war of 1861-5, is judicial and correct. The ideal United States History for secondary schools undoubtedly is yet to come, but as yet this is to our thinking its nearest approximation.

Henry N. Hoxie,  
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#### NOTES

The newest volumes in the Temple Shakespeare are *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *As You Like It*. The frontispiece etchings in each represent respectively the Rialto, the room in which Shakespeare was born, the Globe, Southwarke, and Shakespeare's birth place. Anything pleasanter to look upon than these little volumes can hardly be imagined. (Macmillan & Co.)

Mr. Richard Le Gallienne in *The Religion of a Literary Man*, (Religio Scriptoris), has given that part of the reading public that has not contracted itself to materialism, comfort of a most stimulating, refreshing sort. His message is abundantly readable, and abounds in brilliant, epigrammatic sentences that for quotation are perfect. (Putnam, N. Y.)